

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 6, 10 to 14, 16, 17, 19, 32 to 34, 37, 38, 40, 48 to 50 and 53 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A reception apparatus comprising:

~~a plurality of~~ first channel estimation means for performing channel estimation by using a first estimation method;

second channel estimation means for performing channel estimation by using a second estimation method different from the first estimation method;

first combining means for combining signals ~~from paths~~ in accordance with ~~outputs a first output~~ from said first ~~plurality of~~ channel estimation means;

second combining means for combining signals in accordance with a second output from said second channel estimation means;

detection means for detecting errors of outputs from said first and said second combining means ~~which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means~~, wherein ~~the~~ said detection means comprises decoding means for decoding the outputs from said first and said second combining means, ~~which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means;~~ and

selection means for selecting one of ~~the outputs of~~ said first and said second combining means on the basis of errors of outputs from said decoding means

~~corresponding to said outputs from said combining means, which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means.~~

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein each of said first and said second channel estimation means estimates a channel from a de-spread reception signal.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein one of said ~~plurality of~~ first and said second channel estimation means estimates a channel by an interpolation method.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein one of said ~~plurality of~~ first and said second channel estimation means estimates a channel by a double slot averaging method.

23. and 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said selection means selects one of the ~~outputs of~~ said first and said second combining means in accordance with an error detected with respect to a pilot symbol.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said selection means selects one of ~~the outputs of~~ said first and said second combining means in accordance with an error detected with respect to periodically received pilot symbols.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said selection means selects one of ~~the outputs of~~ said first and said second combining means in units of frames.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said selection means selects one of ~~the outputs of~~ said first and said second combining means in units of frames including frame error detection codes.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A reception apparatus comprising:  
~~a plurality of~~ first channel estimation means for performing channel estimation by using a first estimation method;  
second channel estimation means for performing channel estimation by using a second estimation method different from the first estimation method;  
first combining means for combining signals ~~from paths~~ in accordance with ~~outputs~~ a first output from said ~~plurality of~~ first channel estimation means;  
second combining means for combining signals in accordance with a second output from said second channel estimation means;

detection means for detecting errors of output from said first and said second combining means, ~~which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means~~; wherein said detection means comprises decision means for performing symbol decision with respect to the outputs from said first and said second combining means ~~which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means~~; and

selection means for selecting one of ~~the outputs of~~ said first and said second combining means in accordance with errors based on the decision made by said decision means ~~with respect to said plurality of channel estimation means, which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means.~~

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said selection means selects one of ~~the outputs of~~ said first and said second combining means in accordance with an average of errors based on the decision made by said decision means ~~with respect to said plurality of channel estimation means.~~

32. to 40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A reception method comprising the steps of:  
a first channel estimation step of performing a plurality of channel estimation[[s]] by using a first estimation method;  
a second channel estimation step of performing channel estimation by using a second estimation method different from the first estimation method;

a first combining step of combining signals from paths in accordance with the respective results of the plurality of channel estimations a first result of the first channel estimation step;

a second combining step of combining signals in accordance with a second result of the second channel estimation step;

a detection step of detecting errors of combination results in the first and the second combining steps ~~which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations~~, wherein the ~~detecting~~ detection step comprises a decoding step of decoding the combination results in the first and the second combining steps, ~~which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations~~; and

a selection step of selecting one of the combination results in the first and the second combining steps on the basis of errors of decoding results in the decoding step ~~which correspond to the combination results in the combining step, which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations~~.

42. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 41, wherein the first and the second channel estimation steps comprise[[s]] estimating a channel from a de-spread reception signal.

43. and 44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 41, wherein the selection step comprises selecting one of the ~~combination results in the~~ first and the second combining steps in units of frames.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently Amended) A reception method comprising the steps of:

a first channel estimation step of performing a plurality of channel estimation[[s]] by using a first estimation method;

a second channel estimation step of performing channel estimation by using a second estimation method different from the first estimation method;

a first combining step of combining signals from paths in accordance with the respective results of the plurality of channel estimations a first output of the first channel estimation step;

a second combining step of combining signals in accordance with a second output of the second channel estimation step;

a detection step of detecting errors of combination results in the first and the second combining steps, which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations; wherein the detecting detection step comprises a decision step of performing symbol decision with respect to the combination results in the first and the second combining steps which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations; and

a selection step of selecting one of the combination results in the first and the second combining steps in accordance with errors based on the symbol decision in the symbol decision performing step with respect to said plurality of channel estimations; which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations.

48. to 50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein one of said ~~plurality of~~ first and said second channel estimation means estimates a channel by an interpolation method.

52. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein one of said ~~plurality of~~ first and said second channel estimation means estimates a channel by a double slot averaging method.

53. (Canceled)